

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

OES-06 /076 W

----- 033686

R 121449Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6680

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR IC

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT OPENS

1. PARLIAMENT BEGAN ITS REGULAR FALL SESSION OCTOBER 11 WITH TRADITIONAL CEREMONIAL OPENING THAT INCLUDED RELIGIOUS SERVICE AND REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OF ICELAND. ALTHING THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL TODAY, WHEN ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OTHER ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES WILL COMMENCE. SUBSTANTIVE WORK BEGINS OFFICIALLY WITH PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM IN WEEK OR TWO. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS THAT BUDGET BILL MAY BE INTRODUCED TODAY OR TOMORROW.

2. BUDGET AND RELATED ECONOMIC MATTERS ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE AGENDA DURING OPENING MONTHS. TAX REFORM AND IMPROVEMENTS IN JUDICIAL PROCESS (AS CONSEQUENCE OF APPARENT INCREASE IN CRIME AND CORRUPTION) MAY ALSO COME UP FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION. ONLY FOREIGN POLICY QUESTION IN SIGHT IS WHAT HAPPENS TO BRITISH FISHING RIGHTS AFTER DECEMBER 1. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT ALSO

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PROMISED AT TIME OF LAST SPRING'S SETTLEMENT OF COD

WAR III THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE PUT BEFORE ALTHING AT
APPROPRIATE TIME -- PRESUMABLY THIS FALL. DEFENSE RE-
LATIONS WITH US MAY BE EXPECTED TO ARISE FROM TIME TO
TIME IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS.

3. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILED PARLIAMENTARY
PREVIEW FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT LEGIS-
LATIVE PROGRAM.

BLAKE

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NNN

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